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The Knothole, November 5, 1962

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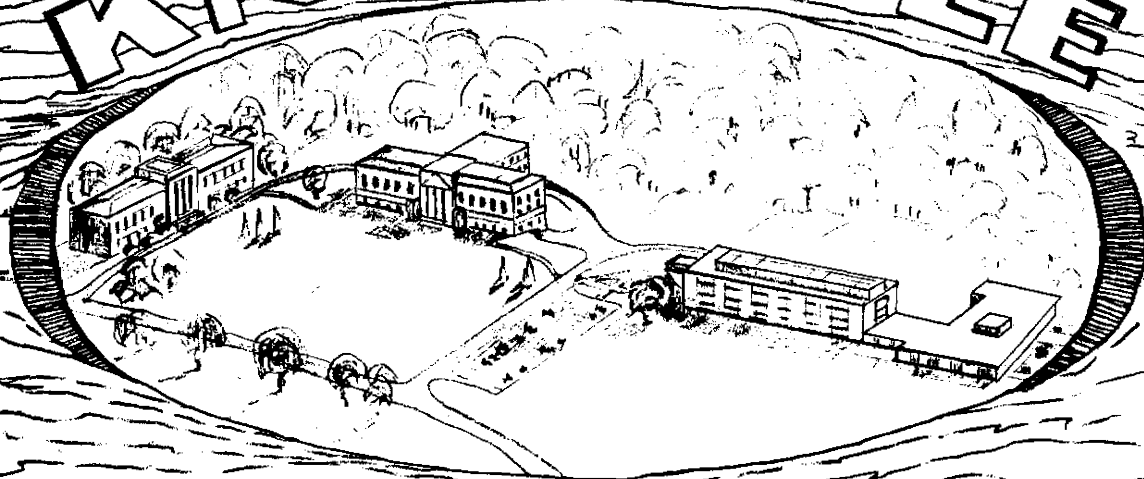
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OUR CAMPUS—AS SEEN—THROUGH THE KNOTHOLE



Editors: H. Chaphe, T. D. Fitzgerald, J. Locke, D. Riordan, P. Sarver, H. Welm

November 5, 1962 Deadline for Entries: Monday 8:45 A.M. Published by Alpha Xi Sigma

ON WILDERNESS

There are two types of wilderness in this country of ours, the primitive and the civilized. A primitive area would be the sea, the vast plains, the Arctic barrens, the desert, or the virgin forest, of which the last one is considered here. A civilized area would be a city and its sprawling suburbs. The first is a land untouched - no people, hence no exploitation or utilization, hence no economy. The second is at the opposite end of the scale and the trend is towards this end. It is a land of many people, hence exploitation and utilization, hence a productive economy.

Both are termed wilderness, for in each an individual is essentially anonymous, anonymous in the primitive area because he is the only one there, insignificant in a vast land area, and anonymous in the civilized area because he is one of the many there, insignificant in a vast cultural area. Though in both cases he is anonymous, in the latter he is subject to the influences of others, while in the former he is subject to himself alone.

And so there being in all humans a so-called urge to get away from it all at times, some fulfill this desire and leave the rapid pace of the one wilderness to find solitude in the other. In the primitive area one tends to lose the image of the outside and his thoughts are directed to the natural surroundings, himself, and the relationship of the two. Most likely he hunts or fishes and what are these activities if not the pursuits which are the constant means by which primitive peoples struggle to survive. He walks or rides horseback as the primitives do, and is fascinated by the campfire as the caveman once was, for it cooks the grub

and keeps one warm. And he sleeps on the ground.

Certainly, all this does not provide the bodily comfort that is ours through the conveniences of civilization. In fact, the experience may be downright uncomfortable at times. Thus, it can not be entirely physical satisfaction which draws the few toward a primitive existence, but also the enjoyment attained through mental stimulation. However, in return for this satisfaction the individual can make no payment, no reimbursement to society for his enjoyment, nor does the land bring any return to society but only provides the intangible values to the individual. Thus the land and the individual have formed a conspiracy, and society is to receive no part of the rewards.

And it is with this point that the advocates of wilderness meet resistance. For it seems that there is an idea in the minds of many that all land and its resources should be devoted to some form of exploitation in order to further the economic growth of surrounding areas and thus society as a whole. Of course, this growth is what a country and its people strive for and is only right and necessary, but to maintain this course with no consideration for benefits which cannot be measured in physical returns is wrong.

Land is not yet so scarce that there should be a panic to get the last area into maximum productivity or use. It is the easy way out to say let's take this timbered area out of reserve and harvest it, or put recreation units on it, rather than to take land already exploited to some extent and try to improve and intensify on it. For it will ultimately come that intensification will be necessary on most lands in the future, and to wait until then to begin intensifying practices is putting off until tomorrow what should be done today.

There are many forest land areas in this country which if maintained or put into reserves would be retaining little in the way of potential physical returns to society now or in the foreseeable future. Areas of rugged topography, extremes in climate, poor growth, and inaccessibility, do not attract exploitation yet prove to be attractive in their wildness and beauty to the wilderness seeker.

The fact that only a minority use the primitive areas is not a pertinent argument for their dismantling. It is rather an inherent reason for their existence and their attractiveness to the few. Increasing population will later determine whether these primitive areas will remain primitive but until the time comes (if it does) that the city will sprawl over most of the country they would continue to serve their purpose.

There are those few fanatical individuals and pressure groups who wish to lock-up much of the highly productive forest and who cry out against the "devastation" of forest management practices. These radicals and the public opinion they arouse deserve opposition from the anti-wilderness factions. But reasonable reservation of forest land into primitive areas the latter should support. This requires the dismissal of the narrow philosophy that all land must bring a return to our pocketbooks and a grasping of the attitude that land which brings satisfaction to the body and soul is also a good investment in the growth of society.

J. L.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS:

There has been a torn, dirty, 48 star American flag hanging from Bray Hall all semester. Why??

Jess DuBin '64

CLASS OFFICERS

Just last week the Senior Class was forced to elect a new Vice-President after the former one was dismissed from his position on the Student Council. The reason for this drastic action was that this person, who shall remain anonymous in this article, was continually absent from the weekly Student Council meetings. Of a total of ten such meetings he was present only once, even though he was notified on various occasions of the consequences if he or a proxy did not attend. The blame for this shameful neglect of duty must be placed for the most part upon this individual, but the entire Senior Class is also to some degree at fault. It was our unrealistic voting which elected this individual to this office in the first place.

Any individual who allows himself to be elected to an important class office and then completely neglects its duties must only be concerned with the honor associated with it. But there is no real honor without work. A title such as this (or that of any other class office, for that matter) is hollow unless the person does his utmost to meet the responsibilities of the job which his classmates have entrusted to him. When this cannot be done due to lack of time or interest, the officer should voluntarily resign his position and not try to hold on to his meaningless title until he and his classmates are humiliated by an action of impeachment.

There is now a rule in effect that all Class or Student Council officers must have better than a 1.0 average. Yet the two or three individuals who have been effected by this rule were certainly much more active and interested in student affairs than our past V.P., a man with a very high average. Let this experience be an example to us - electing a man because of his high academic achievement (which is probably what we did) is wrong unless this person is also known to have the ability, and willingness to do the required work.

H. W.

GRADUATE-STUDENT SMOKER

Date -- December 13th, 1962.

Time -- 7:30 P.M.

Place - Student Lounge.

Purpose -- To acquaint the undergraduate student with the advantages and disadvantages of graduate school, both here and elsewhere.

Program -- Dean Heiberg will give a short introductory talk, after which the students may meet and discuss graduate school with faculty members of all departments. Refreshments will be served.

Invitations Extended to:

- All undergraduate students
- All graduate students
- All faculty members

Sponsored by Alpha Xi Sigma

BOOKS FOR THE ROBIN HOOD BROWSING LIBRARY

The variety of subjects covered by the books of the Robin Hood Browsing Library is quite extensive and is continually increasing. The latest additions were generously contributed by a member of the faculty, to whom, on behalf of the students I extend our thanks. The new books are:

"SILENT SPRING" Rachel Carson

"LETTERS FROM THE EARTH" Mark Twain

"OUR SYNTHETIC ENVIRONMENT" Lewis Herber

"TALES FROM AN ADIRONDACK COUNTY" Aber and King

"INTRODUCTION TO MOUNTAINEERING" G. A. Smith

N O T I C E

The Robin Hood Society presents the first in a series of Student-Faculty Friday Night Get-Togethers featuring Professor George Earle who will show slides and give a talk on LATIN AMERICAN CAMPING at 7:30 P.M., Friday, December 7th in Room 326 Marshall. All are invited to attend.

A TREE

Of all the things that I could be
I had to be a lousy tree.
A tree that stands out in the
street
With little doggies at my feet.
Nothing else to be, alas,
But a comfort station in the grass.
I lift my lazy arms to pray
Get away, little doggie, get
away.
A nest of robbins I must wear,
And what they do gets in my hair,
Of all the things that I could be,
I had to be a ***?***& tree.

From the Hi-Lead files.
Oregon State University

WORDS OF WISDOM

A southern Congressman once said that, "A Yankee tourist is worth thirty acres of cotton, and is much easier to pick."

One trouble with putting your foot in your mouth is that someone's fist often goes in with it.

- From the Hi-Lead -

I M P O R T A N T

In order to ascertain whether the students wish to maintain the present grading system, or are in favor of a revised system in the form of three possible alternatives, the following poll is being taken. If the majority favors the present system, it will remain so. However, if the other alternatives are favored, further investigation in the matter will be taken. **IT IS URGED THAT ALL STUDENTS SUBMIT THEIR VOTE TO THE KNOTHOLE BOX IN MARSHALL.** Because of the seriousness of the matter and the possibility of future action, each vote should be signed or initialed.

- ☐ present system (i.e. 0, 3, 6, 9 points used for 3-hr. course. for example - grades of D, C, B, A).
- ☐ honor points system (i.e. 0 to 9 points used for 3-hr. course. for example - grades of D, C-, C, C+, B-, etc.).
- ☐ numerical system (i.e. ...78, 79, 80, 81, etc...., no letter grades).
- ☐ satisfactory vs. unsatisfactory system.

_____ Signature or Initials